Finance Institutions with the Mainstream banking; Improved Deployment of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

3. Institutional Architecture include: Federations of

Farmers-Self Help Groups (SHGs)

4. Risk Mitigation Measures include:

Crop Insurance, Weather Insurance, Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.

5. Other Measures include:

Expanding Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.

Half price for farmer's products

1957. MS. SUSHILATIRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers get just half the price that consumers pay for their produce;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (c) In a study on market margins for some crops conducted through out the country during 2004-05, it was found that producer's share in consumer's price for paddy/rice varies from 81.49 per cent in Chhattisgarh State to 61.79 per cent in Karnataka. For wheat, it varies between 85.73 per cent in Rajasthan to 62.47 per cent in Karnataka. The Government fixes Minimum Support Price (MSP) for major crops, so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce. Also, the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act has been amended to benefit the farmers to realize better prices.

Ban on use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides

†1958. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the problem of water, Government is considering upon any plan regarding imposing ban on the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and encourgaing the usage of bio-manures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, whereas use of pesticides in developed countries is already banned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government regarding imposing ban on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, except those pesticides banned as per

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the procedurejaid down under the Insecticides Act, 1968. However, the Government is encouraging the usage of bio-manures in organic farming and also its usage in integrated nutrient managment.

(c) Whenever the information about continued use of pesticide in India, which are banned in other countries is received, the Ministry of Agriculture reviews the usage of such pesticides by appointing Expert Committee or by the Registration Committee (RC) dealing with the Registration of pesticides under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Committees and RC, appropriate action is taken by Ministry of Agriculture. The reasons to permit the use of any pesticide in the country depends on various factors *viz.* incidence of pests & diseases in the country, toxicity of pesticides under the agro-climatic conditions prevailing in India, availability of alternative pesticides for controlling a pest/disease, etc.

Based on the recommendations of these Expert Committees/RC, the Ministry of Agriculture has banned 25 insecticides for Import, manufacture and use in the country. Besides, 4 insecticide formulations have been banned for import, manufacture and use in the country. In addition, 2 insecticides/insecticide formulations have been banned for use in the country but their manufacture is allowed for export. Nine insecticides have been allowed with certain restrictions.

Short and long term measures for the development in agriculture sector

1959. DR. BARUN MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTU RE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that further development of agricultural sector is immediately necessary for the balanced development of the country; and

(b) if so, what effective measures have been taken for short-term and long-term development of agricultural sectors alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the crucial role of agriculture in the overall economic and social well being of the country and to achieve inclusive growth. Accordingly, Policy initiatives and different Plan Schemes and Programmes have been initiated/ implemented. The country is bestowed with diverse agro-climatic conditions favourable for the cultivation of diverse crops like foodgrains crops, commercial crops, horticulture, plantation, spices etc. To promote crop diversification and to provide focused approach to the programmes, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize is being implemented from 1.4.2004. National Horticulture Mission has been launched in the country from May, 2005 for ensuring end to end approach with backward and forward linkages covering research, post harvest management, processing and marketing for development of horticulture. A centrally-sponsored scheme of National Bamboo Mission, was approved during 2006 to bring in additional area under bamboo in the forest and non-forest area. To encourage organic farming a National Project on Organic farming has also been taken up. Government has made concerted efforts to make quality seeds available to the farmers. Other programmes/schemes of Government include revitalization of the agricultural extension services, agricultural marketing reforms, Macro Management schemes providing adequate flexibility to the States for implementing suitable schemes/projects, revitalization of cooperative sector and provision of adequate credit.